6. Desirability of amending the *puduval* Rules in respect of the Devicolam Division.

Mr. Ankur Mira Rowther (Member, Nominated) said that the present rates of *tharavila* and assessment, *viz.*, Rs. 25 and Re. 1 per acre respectively, were very heavy in the case of lands in the *pakuthies* to the east and north of Peermade *pakuthi*, in view of the difficulty of obtaining labour, the high rates of wages, the destruction of crops by wild beasts, etc. Several ryots had to abandon their lands owing to their inability to pay the high rates of *tharavila*. The high rates of *tharavila* and assessment were levied by the Government probably in the belief that all the lands in the Devicolam Division were used for coffee or tea cultivation; but that was not the case. He, therefore, suggested that the lands in the locality mentioned by him might be registered in the names of the ryots on levy of *tharavila* not exceeding Rs. 3 per acre and a lighter assessment. Higher rates of *tharavila* and assessment might be recovered in cases where the lands were actually used for tea or coffee cultivation.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

7. Hardships suffered by Pulayas for want of dwelling sites.

Mr. Aiyan Kali (Member, Nominated) regretted that the 500 acres of *puduval* lands in the Vilappil *pakuthi*, already ordered to be registered in the names of the Pulayas, had not yet been brought under registry, although the tree growth on the area had been completely removed by the Forest Department. Similarly, not even one out of the 3,000 applications for lands submitted by the members of his community to the Peishkars of the Trivandrum, Quilon and Kottayam Divisions and the Commissioner, Devicolam, had been favourably disposed of. The orders issued by the Government with a view to benefit the backward classes had not been promptly carried out by subordinate officers. The Member, therefore, prayed that the Government might be pleased to enquire what action was taken on the 3,000 applications mentioned above and how they were disposed of. Stringent instructions should also be issued to see that the orders of Government were loyally carried out by the lower officials.

Dewan's reply.—The Member's representation will receive careful consideration. Special reports will be called for from the Peishkars in regard to the progress made in the registry.

8. Grievances of Hindu Pulayas in connection with the registry of *puduval* lands.

Mr. Kurumban Daivathan (Member, Nominated) said that the Pulaya community was very grateful to Government for the orders issued by them for registering one acre of *puduval* land each in the names of Pulayas free of *tharavila*. But, on account of the indifference of the subordinates, the applications submitted by Pulayas did not receive favourable disposal. In 1093, more than 4,000 applications had been submitted by Pulayas for the registry of *puduval* lands in different *pakuthies* of the taluks of Central Travancore of which only about 100 applications were granted.

The Member observed that, if compact blocks of 50 or 100 acres in any one place could be assigned in the names of Pulayas, it would enable them to live together. They could profitably cultivate the areas granted to them and educate their children by erecting schools in such localities. That was the experience in other countries also. Such compact blocks were available for registry in the following Survey Nos., *i. e.*, 781/1, 923/1, 751/1 and 702/1 in the Ranni *pakuthi*, 5/1 in the Thonnallur *pakuthi*, 295/1 and 291/5 in the Kottarakara *pakuthi*, 298/2 in the Ezhukon *pakuthi*, 822/1 in the Anchal *pakuthi*, 354/1 and 538/1 in the Punalur *pakuthi*, 5548/1 in the Kizhakkekallada *pakuthi* and 360/1 in the Veliam *pakuthi*. The Member prayed that the Government might be pleased to issue stringent orders to the Revenue Department to set apart the above areas for the Pulayas and to order their registry in their names in compact blocks.

Dewan's reply.—The Member's representation will be considered.

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